NATIONAL SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

MAY 1976

VOL. 1, NO. 9

ESPIONAGE LAWS

Coming: JUN.: FBI Charter

In This Issue:

The Espionage Laws: In Need of Reform, p. 3

CHRISTINE M. MARWICK

Illegal Intelligence Programs: Notifying the Victims, p. 10 WENDY WATANABE and CHRISTINE M. MARWICK

of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, p. 12

Reforming the Intelligence Agencies: Recommendations

April 17, 1976 Rep. Bella Abzug, Chairperson of the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Civil Rights, made public a CIA statement revealing that over 60% of the agency's job applicants from 1963 through 1974 were rejected on the basis of polygraph (lie-detector) interviews. She has introduced legislation which would make it a criminal offense to administer polygraph tests in connection with federal government jobs. (New York Times, 4/18/76, p. 1.)

April 24, 1976 An FOIA suit has revealed that the contents of a briefcase stolen from the 1968 Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, Fred Halstead, turned up in the hands of the FBI. Halstead believes FBI account -- that the briefcase was found by an unidentified source and then surrendered to the FBI-to be a cover story. (New York Times, 4/25/76, p. 28)

April 29, 1976 On the basis of a 5month review in the Department of Justice, Attorney General Levi announced that evidence was found indicating that the FBI undertook a systematic plan of harassment of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but that there was no basis for believing that the Bureau either failed to make a thorough investigation of or was involved in his assassination. He ordered a second investigation by the Justice Department Office of Personal Responsibility.

In The News

April 2, 1976 Weinstein v. Levi (D.D.C. 2278-72) Order. In an FOIA suit for the Hiss papers, Chief Judge Jones issued an order requiring "a proper index accurately and separately describing in detailed, nonconclusory terms each and every document withheld from the plaintiff in whole or in part." With regard to material claimed to be exempt under the natural security exemption (b)(2) defendants are directed to provide "specific factual and evidentiary material accurately and adequately describing in non-conclusory terms the nature of the document, [proof of proper classification] . . . , and the reasons why it must continue to remain classified and at what level."

April 20, 1976 Zweibon v. Mitchell, No. 75-1056; Barrett v. Zweibon, No. 75-1046; Mitchell v. Zweibon, No. 75-1059. The Supreme Court declined to review a decision by the D.C. Circuit which held that warrants must be obtained for a government wiretap on a domestic organization that is neither the agent of, nor acting in collaboration with, a foreign power. The case, Zweibon v. Mitchell, 516 F.2d 594 (1975), now returns to the U.S. District Court for further proceedings.

In the Courts

It is at all times necessary, and more particularly so during the progress of a revolution and until right ideas confirm themselves by habit, that we frequently refreshroved to relieve 2004 for the confirmation of the con THOMAS PAINE